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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Nicholls

Confirmation No.: 1945

Application No.: 09/644,937

Group Art Unit: 1631

Filed: August 23, 2000

Examiner: Marschel, Ardin

For: METHOD FOR DETERMINING A SHAPE Attorney Docket No.: 9476-003-999
SPACE FOR A SET OF MOLECULES
USING MINIMAL METRIC DISTANCES
(as amended)

RESPONSE TO COMMUNICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Communication mailed June 30, 2003, please find attached hereto a Substitute Abstract. In addition also enclosed please find a substitute page 34 to replace page 34 of the specification as filed. Applicants respectfully draw the Examiner's attention to remarks presented in their Amendment and Response mailed March 10, 2003 for explanations of the respective purposes of the amended Abstract and the substitute page.

In his communication, mailed June 30, 2003, the Examiner has requested that the Abstract as amended by Applicants in their Amendment and Response, mailed March 10, 2003, be provided on a separate sheet of paper. Accordingly, Applicants furnish herewith, on a separate sheet, a substitute abstract.

Applicants also have reason to believe that substitute sheet 34 was also inadvertently omitted from their response mailed March 10, 2003 (wherein it was referred to as substitute sheets 34A and 34B). Accordingly, Applicants furnish herewith substitute sheet 34, and respectfully request that the Examiner replace page 34 of the specification as filed with the attached substitute sheet 34.

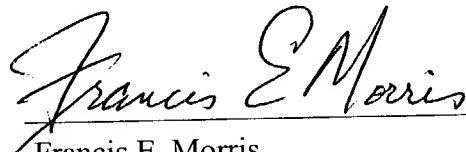
Finally, Applicants draw the Examiner's attention to their communication mailed July 11, 2003, requesting that their response mailed March 10, 2003 be accorded its correct mailing date. The Patent and Trademark Office had accorded a mailing date of March 11, 2003 to the aforementioned response.

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No fee is believed owed with this response. However, should the Commissioner determine otherwise, he is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this paper communication or credit any overpayment to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150. A copy of this sheet is enclosed for accounting purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

Date July 21, 2003

 24,615
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